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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/970,592	10/04/2001	Bing Wang	6848.US.01	1236

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EXAMINER

SMITH, TYRONE W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/970,592

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Tyrone W Smith

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-12 and 14-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7-11 and 15-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coutu (5225756) in view of Sporer (6119046).

Regarding Claims 1 and 12. Coutu discloses a stepper motor driver circuit, which includes comparator circuitry (Figure 1 items 26 and 27) to compare a motor phase current with a reference current and provide an output (refer to Figure 1 items 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 where the outputs of the comparator connect over lines 28 and 29 with phase A and B drive circuits in indicated when the applied currents have reached their predetermined reference levels). Coutu discloses two EPROM's (Figure 1 items 14 and 15), equivalent to the sine and cosine wave generators disclosed in the invention (column 3 lines 9-15). The motor controller (Figure 1 item 76) coupled to the comparator circuitry and motor phase to adjust the motor phase current in response to the output, the motor current controller selectively uses slow and fast current decay on the motor phase to reduce the motor phase current (column 5 lines 44-68 and column 6 lines 1-35). Further, Coutu can reduce the motor phase current using a fast decay process and use a slow decay process to further reduce the motor phase current. However

Coutu does not disclose the reference current using the fast current decay and switches to a slow current decay following a defined time period.

Sporer discloses a method of controlling a chopper driver and a circuit arrangement for executing the method, which discloses the reference current using the fast current decay, and switches to a slow current decay following a defined time period. Refer to the abstract and Figure 2.

It would have been obvious to use Sporer's a method of controlling a chopper driver and a circuit arrangement for executing the method with Coutu's a stepper motor driver circuit. The combination of the two would provide controlling a chooper driver or stepper with which the optimum operation mode can be set automatically and existing measuring systems can be utilized.

Claim Objections-Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3, 4 and 14 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5, 7-11 and 15-18 in condition for allowance.

Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The new reference of Sporer is applied to the current rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tyrone W Smith whose telephone number is 703-306-5987. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Nappi, can be reached on 7-3-308-3370. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-3431.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

Tyrone Smith
Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2837


ROBERT NAPPI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER